Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS) is pleased
to announce an invitation to apply for
The Professional Fellows Program between Egypt,
Tunisia, Morocco, and the U.S.

This program is funded by
The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and
Cultural Exchanges

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, this program seeks applicants for a two-way exchange
program that will focus on nongovernmental organization (NGO) development for
professionals working in the field of improving the status of women.

Selected participants will take part in a US-based exchange program from October 16 to
November 17, 2017 in the greater Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, IL, or Seattle, WA. They
will also attend the three-day Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C., where they
will be able to meet fellow participants from around the world. After the completion of the US-
based program, participants will continue their involvement with an exchange program in Egypt,
Morocco, and Tunisia in winter of 2018, when they and their organizations will work with
American exchange participants to build on activities conducted and continue collaborating on
initiatives begun during the fall program.

HANDS invites qualified professionals from Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco who are
currently working for registered local NGO to promote the empowerment, better quality of
life and inclusion of women to apply.

During the US-based exchange, selected applicants will participate in:

1. **Fellowship posts** with a counterpart organization in either DC, Chicago, or Seattle in order to
collaborate with American colleagues and learn about their areas of activity;
2. **Seminars and training** to strengthen participants’ leadership capacity and to develop their
understanding of American NGOs and how they have been used to improve the lives of women;
3. **Visits and networking opportunities** with relevant organizations and institutions;
4. **Participation in the Professional Fellows Congress** in Washington, D.C. at the end of the fellowship, which will provide opportunities to meet other professional exchange program participants sponsored by the Department of State and network with potential partners and counterpart institutions and individuals;

5. **Cultural experiences** that will build positive relationships between Egyptians, Moroccans, Tunisians, and Americans, including opportunities for sightseeing and touring.

All travel, accommodation and food costs for participants will be covered by the program, as well as local transportation costs and fees for educational and cultural visits. The program will also provide participants with **health insurance and a J-1 visa** to travel to the US.

**Program Schedule**

**October 16 to November 11, 2017**: Exchange program in the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, or Seattle, WA

**November 12 to November 18, 2017**: Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C.

**Winter 2018**: Exchange programs in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia (exact dates to be determined)

**Eligibility Criteria**

This program aims to strengthen the leadership capacity and skills of mid-level NGO professionals from Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt who are working to promote the empowerment and inclusion of women in their societies.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Age**: Applicants must be **between the ages of 25 and 40**.
- **Education**: Candidates should have completed **university level education**.
- **English language**: **English proficiency is mandatory**. Participants should have very strong English reading, writing, and speaking skills. *The application and interview will be in English and applicants’ language ability will be assessed accordingly.*
- **Professional experience**: Prospective participants should have **at least three years** of demonstrated involvement with activities promoting the empowerment of women in their societies, as well as an interest in employing new mechanisms to advance such work and be affiliated with registered NGO in their country.
- **Dedication to and soundness of plans for the future**: Candidates must demonstrate **long-term dedication to the inclusion and participation of women in their societies**. The application will ask candidates to submit an essay showing their understanding of the importance of the empowerment of women, their own plans for addressing this issue after the exchange, and an awareness of the current challenges of promoting such activities, as well as the replicable successes already achieved in their home country.
- **Long-term commitment to the program that extends beyond the official end-date**.
- **Recommendations**: Applicants must be able to supply **two letters of recommendation**.
• Passport: Applicants must possess a **valid passport** for travel with an expiration date that does not fall before the dates of required travel.

Please note that only fully completed applications will be considered.

**Instructions for Application**

Interested candidates must submit the following documents in **English** to apply:

1. **Completed application form** (including all essay questions)
2. **Resume/CV**
3. **Two letters of recommendation**

**The deadline to apply is April 15, 2017**

Interested candidates can download the application form from HANDS’ website at [http://www.handsalongthenile.org/causes/prospective-professional-fellows/](http://www.handsalongthenile.org/causes/prospective-professional-fellows/)

Tunisian applicants can also download the application from the website of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research: [http://www.cawtar.org/SitePages/announcement.aspx](http://www.cawtar.org/SitePages/announcement.aspx)

HANDS is a US-based non-governmental organization dedicated to building bridges of partnership and cooperation between America and the Middle East. For more information about HANDS, please visit our website at [www.handsalongthenile.org](http://www.handsalongthenile.org).